

REMARKS

It is believed that the within amendments clearly place this application in condition for allowance and are appropriate to be entered at this stage of the prosecution.

Claim 10 has been cancelled. The other rejected claims have been minimally amended.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim under consideration. The amendments made thereto emphasize the clear patentable distinctions between the claimed invention and the Sawada et al. patent cited as a reference.

The Sawada et al. patent makes it absolutely clear that for each of the contact clips, one element engages a groove in the glass bulb, to fix the position of the bulb, and the other, which is of clearly different structure, serves only to engage the contact and provide electrical continuity. See column 2, lines 2-7. Also see column 2, lines 14-21.

The above is also true of the Fig. 4 embodiment of Sawada et al., referred to by the Examiner. See column 4, lines 33-43.

See also the single claim of Sawada et al. which specifies that "a retaining projection is formed on one of said pair of holder pieces" and "connecting

projections...formed on the other holder piece...that make an electrical connection".

Applicant's amended claim 1 specifies that each of the contact clips has on opposed sidewalls thereof, opposed inwardly protuberant retention elements positioned to lie closely above and closely below planar portions of each of the strip-like contact elements (of the lamp) to hold the lamp in position "by engagement of said strip-like contact elements by said contact clips". It is also specified that the strip-like contact elements of the lamp are oriented generally at right angles to the sidewalls of the contact clips.

All of the above emphasized language is distinct in all ways from the Sawada et al. patent, in which the clips position the bulb by engagement of one (only) element of each pair with a groove in the glass bulb. The other element of each pair merely engages the contact for electrical purposes. The applicant's claims specify that the lamp is held by engagement of the contact clips with contact elements – period. This is directly contrary to Sawada et al.

Regarding claim 2, the Examiner will note that the elements 38, 39 of Sawada et al. (Fig. 4), do not (and indeed cannot) engage the retention groove 14 of the bulb. Their purpose and function (and structure) is to engage the contact element 13.

Regarding claim 4, as amended it specifies that the first (upper) retention elements project inward over "upwardly facing surfaces of the planar contact portions after plug-in insertion". In Ruehlemann, the projections merely frictionally engage lateral surfaces of a contact in sliding friction. The upper projections obviously cannot project over an upwardly facing surface of the contact. Additionally, claim 4 must be taken in the context of its parent claim 1, which calls for a spaced-apart pair of contact clips, with each being provided with the indicated retention elements.

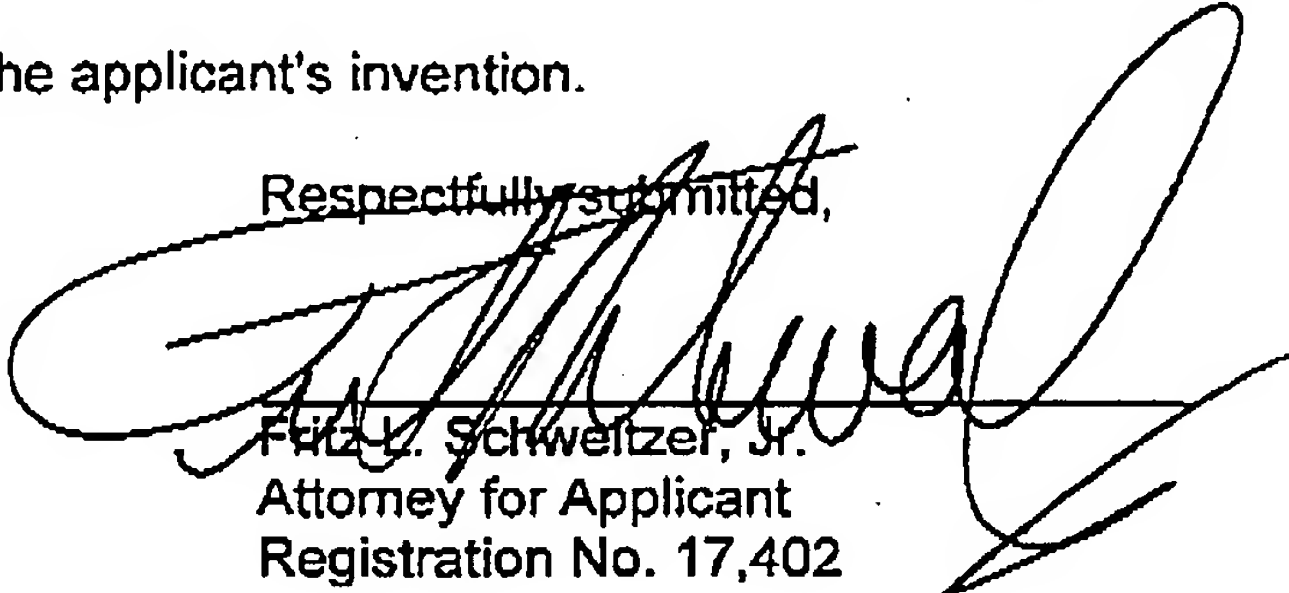
With respect to claim 11, as now amended it calls for the socket body to be configured to mount a lamp in a "predetermined rotational orientation relative to the socket body". This is structurally different from Fielding, which employs a common screw-in socket, such that bulbs would inherently end up with a somewhat random rotational orientation relative to the socket. With respect to the ability to use Fielding without a ridged base, it is noted that the conductors must pass through the body of the Fielding socket so that, once installed by the screw S, rotation would be firmly resisted by the spaced-apart conductors, and forcible rotation probably would damage either the socket or the conductors, or both. Fielding does not in any way disclose a structure capable of providing rotational orientation of a lamp having an oriented output beam.

It is believed that the within amendments clearly place this application in condition for allowance, and clearly no further search is required to make a

determination of patentability of the amended claims. Accordingly, entry of the amendment and allowance of the application is solicited.

Applicant's invention is a remarkable device for use in connection with commercial and theatrical lighting, enabling two of the highly popular forms of lamps, having a highly diverse contact structure, to be alternatively mounted in a single socket, with a one-hand plug-in action. There has been nothing like this available to the trade prior to the applicant's invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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Examiner Felix O. Figueroa at 703-872-9306, Commissioner for
Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on the date
indicated below.
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